

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092658

FOLLOWING BANGKOK 7277 ACTION SECSTATE INFO OTTAWA MAY 4TH.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7277

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH, CA

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: DISCUSSION WITH CANADIAN AMBASSAODR ON
POSSIBLE GOC APPROACH TO RTG

1. IN EFFORT TO ENERGIZE CANADIAN EMBASSY TO MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN
ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES, CHARGE' TOGETHER WITH DEA REGIONAL
DIRECTOR DICK CALLED ON CANADIAN AMBASSADOR MAY 3. CALL WAS
FOLLOW-UP TO EARLIER COCKTAIL PARTY DISCUSSION BETWEEN CHARGE AND
AMBASSADOR RIDDELL IN WHICH LATTER HAD INDICATED INTEREST IN SUB-
JECT AND WAYS IN WHICH TWO MISSIONS MIGHT COOPERATE TO SERVE
OUR JOINT INTERESTS IN CURTAILING FLOW OF NARCOTICS FROM GOLDEN
TRIANGLE AREA TO NORTH AMERICA.

2. DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR RIDDELL FOCUSED ON TWO MAJOR
POINTS. FIRST, CHARGE' OUTLINED FOR HIM RTG EFFORTS TO CURTAIL
TRAFFIC IN OPIATES AND U.S. SUPPORT FOR THAI PROGRAMS. CHARGE'
NOTED THAT RTG HAS, DURING PAST TWO YEARS, MADE SIGNIFICANT
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COMMITMENT TO CURTAILMENT OF DRUG TRAFFIC AND HAS REORGANIZED

THAI POLICE TO COPE WITH PROBLEM FAR MORE EFFECTIVELY. THAI EFFORTS IN 1973 RESULTED IN SEIZURE OF 23 TONS OF OPIUM TRANSITTING THAILAND. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT WE NEED REALISTICALLY TO BEAR IN MIND THAT THIS WAS ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL OPIUM TRANSITTING THAILAND AND THAT ADDITIONAL EFFORTS ARE STILL REQUIRED, PARTICULARLY SINCE TRAFFICKERS, IN RESPONSE TO BETTER THAI ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS, ARE NOW ADOPTING ALTERNATE TRAFFIC PATTERNS WHICH ARE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO INTERDICT.

3. CHARGE' ALSO OUTLINED UN AND USG PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT THAI EFFORTS DESIGNED TO REDUCE AND EVENTUALLY ELIMINATE PLANTING OF OPIUM POPPIES IN NORTHERN TRIBAL AREAS. CHARGE' POINTED OUT THAT THIS IS LONG-TERM EFFORT, THAT PROGRAMS SO FAR ARE EXPERIMENTAL IN NATURE AND THAT IMMEDIATE RESULTS SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED. U.S. AND UN DO, HOWEVER, OVER LONGER RUN HOPE TO LAY BASIS FOR SITUATION IN WHICH ALTERNATE MEANS OF MAKING A LIVING WILL BE FOUND FOR TRIBAL GROUPS IN WAY IN WHICH WILL NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THAI SECURITY IN THIS SENSITIVE AREA.

4. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, CHARGE' SAID IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF AMBASSADOR RIDDELL WOULD LEND HIS SUPPORT TO EFFORTS OTHERS WERE MAKING TO CURTAIL PRODUCTION OF AND TRAFFICKING IN OPIATES WITHIN THAILAND. CANADA HAD DIRECT INTEREST IN THIS SINCE CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF DANGEROUS DRUGS ENTERING VANCOUVER OBVIOUSLY CAME FROM GOLDEN TRIANGLE REGION. CHARGE' SUGGESTED THAT CANADIAN APPROACH AT POLICY MAKING LEVEL OF RTG COULD USEFULLY REINFORCE PRESSURES J.S., U.K., AND UN WERE EXERTING ON THAI AND COULD ALSO ACHIEVE CONCRETE RESULTS THROUGH MATTERS SUCH AS EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN CANADA AND THAILAND ON MAJOR TRAFFICKERS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES.

5. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT SUCH APPROACH WOULD BE USEFUL IN TERMS OF CANADA'S OWN INTERESTS BUT SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO SEEK CONCURRENCE FROM OTTAWA. ONLY PROBLEM HE FORESAW WAS POSSIBILITY THAT THAILAND MIGHT USE OCCASION TO SEEK CANADIAN AID AND AMBASSADOR RIDDELL WAS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER SUCH AID COULD BE PROVIDED AND, IF SO, FROM WHAT SOURCE. CHARGE' POINTED OUT THAT BRITISH HAD ESTABLISHED CLOSE LIAISON RELATIONSHIP WITH THAI ON NARCOTICS MATTERS WITHOUT PROVIDING AID. CHARGE' SUGGESTED AND AMBASSADOR CONFIDENTIAL

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RIDDELL AGREED THAT POSSIBILITY OF SUCH REQUEST SHOULD NOT DETER APPROACH TO RTG BUT THAT ANY REQUEST FOR AID COULD BE HANDLED ON AD HOC BASIS. THERE MIGHT IN FACT BE SOME LIMITED WAYS IN WHICH GOC WOULD WISH TO ASSIST THAI EFFORTS.

6. SECOND MAJOR AREA OF DISCUSSION CENTERED ON DESIRABILITY OF INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN CANADIAN AND U.S. EMBASSIES IN BANGKOK TO REDUCE DANGER THAT TRAFFICKERS DENIED VISAS BY ONE EM-

BASSY MIGHT ATTEMPT TO ENTER NORTH AMERICA THROUGH THE OTHER. WE AGREED TO FULL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, AND DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR PROMISED TO PROVIDE LIST OF MAJOR TRAFFICKERS TO CANADIAN EM-BASSY IN ORDER THAT THIS CAN BE CHECKED AGAINST VISA APPLICANTS.

7. WE FOUND DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR RIDDELL MOST USEFUL AND BELIEVE HE WILL INDEED SEEK OTTAWA'S CONCURRENCE IN WEIGHING IN WITH RTG. FROM OUR STANDPOINT HERE, THE MORE COUNTRIES WHICH EXPRESS CONCERN TO THAILAND ABOUT CONTINUED NARCOTICS TRAFFIC AND WHICH ASSIST THAILAND'S EFFORTS, THE BETTER. WE HOPE CANADA WILL JOIN THE GROUP.
MASTERS UNQUOTE RUSH

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